

PATRIOTS FIGHT FOR PEACE!

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William Z. Foster

William Z. Foster and Eugene Dennis, chairman and secretary of the Communist Party, stated last week that the Communists would fight for peace against the Wall Street bankers' plan to use Americans as cannon-fodder in a war for profits.

The Communist leaders hailed the statements of Maurice Thorez, French Communist leader, and Palmiro Togliatti, Italian Communist leader. These two leaders of European working people had warned the U.S. bankers and munitions makers that the working people of their countries will refuse to fight for Wall Street in a war for profits against the Socialist Soviet Union.

The newspapers owned by the Wall Street millionaires lied about the Communist declarations. President Truman took this occasion to denounce Communists and all who fight for a peaceful life for Americans as "traitors"!



Eugene Dennis

We reprint below the open letter of the Communist Party leaders in reply to President Truman.

Open Letter to President Truman:

Dear Mr. President:

Is the advocacy of peace treason?

Is the moral climate of our country such that an appeal to reason becomes the basis for the charge treason?

So it would appear. One day you call a writer an traitor because he dared criticize one of your aides for accepting a medal from the fascist Peron. Another day you term traitors men who believe that war is not

inevitable and that two social systems can cooperate in the interests of world peace—and who work towards that end.

First, let us set the record straight.

DISTORT VIEWS

In denouncing our plea for peace you are, of course, aware that you distorted our views. You twisted the question originally asked and implied that we

Communists had discussed an attack by the Soviet Union upon our nation.

We, of course, did not discuss the fantastic impossibility of such an attack upon our country, an attack which the "New York Times" of Feb. 27 aptly termed a "wildly improbable" event. It is not from the Socialist Soviet Union—which gave 20 million lives in the common struggle against fascism—that the danger of war arises.

Neither the American people nor the Soviet Union is responsible for the present world tension. Responsibility rests squarely on Wall Street and its bipartisan puppets. Only the capitalist trusts, the IG Farbens, the duPonts, the merchants of death, instigate and profit from war.

Because we hold these views—because we work to check the war-mongers and promote American-Soviet cooperation for peace—you hurl at us the epithet "traitor." But the violence of your denunciation does not settle the question: Are your policies leading America and the world to war or peace?

REAL ISSUE

This is the real issue of our day.

We could perhaps earn cheap applause if we hailed your systematic wrecking of Roosevelt's "Grand Design" for world peace through firm American-Soviet friendship.

We might meet your approval if we lauded your revival of the fascist war power in the Ruhr.

Perhaps we would bask in your smiles if we praised the freeing of Ilse Koch, the Krupp bankers and the Nazi generals.

Undoubtedly there would be no harsh Presidential epithets for us if we cheered the proposed budget, nearly half of which will go for guns, tanks, planes and barracks instead of schools, hospitals, housing and increased social security.

We would, of course, never be called "traitors" if we supported the North Atlantic War Alliance and the current drive against the Bill of Rights.

SPEAK AGAINST WAR

But we regard it as the highest form of patriotism to speak our minds against war and for peace.

We realize, of course, that this is not the first time

that patriots have been pilloried for daring to fight for peace.

Jefferson was hounded because he refused to join the jingo cry for war against revolutionary France. For this he and his colleagues were reviled as "traitors," "Jacobins" and "agents of a foreign power."

Lincoln in his day fought from the floor of Congress the unjust, annexationist, slaveholder-inspired war against Mexico. He was assailed as a second "Benedict Arnold."

Carl Schurz, the celebrated Union general and former Cabinet member, denounced the Spanish-American War as "criminal aggression" and called upon the American people to reverse the imperialist course of the McKinley Administration.

In the light of history, Mr. President, would you call Jefferson un-American and pro-French? Was Lincoln un-American and pro-Mexican? Was Schurz un-American and pro-Spanish?

Were these men "traitors" because they dared to stand up against jingoes, demagogues and calumniators?

Are the millions of Americans who oppose the current Wall Street-Pentagon hysteria and speak the sober voice of reason to be branded apostles of treason?

On our part, we Communists will defend in the future as in the past the highest interests of our country. We will defend in the future as in the past our people from all enemies, within and without.

When our Union was in mortal danger, a great Communist leader of his day, Gen. Joseph Weydemeyer, served in the Union army, as did many other members of the Communist League.

In the recent anti-Axis war, 15,000 Communists served with honor. *Among these were four of the defendants in the current trial of Communist leaders indicted simply for advocacy of their views—Robert Thompson, winner of the Distinguished Service Cross; Henry Winston, John Gates and Gus Hall.*

We Communists are dedicated to the struggle to make ours a land of peace, prosperity and progress. We will continue to urge the American people to exercise control over domestic and foreign policy alike.

We will continue in the spirit of the great American who preceded you as a representative from your state, Senator Carl Schurz of Missouri, who on the Senate floor in 1872

uttered those immortal words: "Our country, right or wrong! When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right!"

Despite all threats and persecutions we will continue resolutely to work for peace. Instead of an aggressive North Atlantic Pact—a resurrected anti-Communist

Axis—we shall continue, in company with millions of other Americans, to urge that our nation shall sign a Pact of Friendship and Peace with our great war-time ally, the Soviet Union.

That way lies peace and security for America and the world.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER
Chairman

EUGENE DENNIS
General Secretary
Communist Party, U.S.A.

U. S. Communists Will Oppose Wall Street War

(Statement of William Z. Foster and Eugene Dennis)

The Thorez and Togliatti statements emphatically serve the cause of universal peace.

Only those who plot a third world war and seek to embroil France and Italy in aggressive military operations against our great ally of World War II, the Soviet Union, could read anything un-French or un-Italian in these statements.

French and Italian sovereignty and independence are threatened today solely by Wall Street's schemes of world domination as expressed in the Marshall Plan and the proposed Atlantic war alliance. It is our military and those of the British who have established a General Headquarters at Fontainebleau.

Not Russians but Americans have military bases and are intervening in the internal affairs of Greece, Turkey, Iran, China, Canada, Greenland, Brazil, as well as France and Italy.

On Feb. 27 the *New York Times* editorially termed the danger of an invasion of our shores wildly improbable. What the *Times* failed to say, however, was that the threat of aggression against other nations is not wildly improbable—and that this threat emanates precisely from Wall Street and its cartel-connected trusts.

It is this which explains the colossal peacetime military budget, the effort to stampede the nation into the Atlantic war alliance and plunge America and the world into an atomic war.

OPPOSE NEW WAR

We Communists join with millions of other patriotic Americans in opposing those who seek a new world war. We strive for peace and friendship between the U.S.A., the USSR, the new democracies, the colonial and all other peoples.

We do not regard a new world holocaust as inevitable. We hold the peaceful co-existence of two different social systems wholly possible.

We believe that efforts of the peoples to achieve peace can check the war-makers and create new opportunities to achieve peace. The peace camp is infinitely stronger than the war camp.

It is this which makes the war camp so reckless and ruthless. An atmosphere is rapidly being created in our nation that to work for peace and American-Soviet amity is considered equivalent to treason. The trial of the Communist leaders, the current witch-hunts and other attacks on civil liberties are indicative of today's political climate.

If, despite the efforts of the peace forces of

America and the world, Wall Street should succeed in plunging the world into war, we would oppose it as an unjust, aggressive, imperialist war, as an undemocratic and an anti-Socialist war, destructive of the deepest interests of the American people and all humanity.

Even as Lincoln while a Congressman opposed the unjust, annexationist Mexican War and demanded its termination, so would we Communists cooperate with all democratic forces to defeat the predatory war aims of American imperialism and bring such a war to a speedy conclusion on the basis of a democratic peace.

American security and American peace lie in world security and world peace—not in any Wall Street Ueber-Alles policy decked out in the trappings of "the American Century."

For our part we will work with all those who seek peace, democracy and social progress. The American people, assuming their historic responsibility, must reject the war policies of the Wall Street-Churchill cartel and their bi-partisan puppets and return our nation to the peace policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the "Grand Design" and cornerstone of which is firm American-Soviet friendship.

For THE REAL TRUTH on
The Trial of the Communist Leaders
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and
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